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## Current Events

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[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and Franklin H. Potter, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Julianne A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

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### Illinois

*Chicago.*—Dr. Keith Preston, of Northwestern University, sends us the following account of Dr. Walter Leaf's recent visit to Chicago:

"Nothing in the last few years has been more quickening to classics and more heartening to friends of letters in and around Chicago, than the visit of Mr. Walter Leaf, of London, who came to this country to deliver the Harris lectures at Northwestern University. Mr. Leaf is perhaps best known to American educators as a great Homeric scholar, but we were not sorry to learn what is so very well known in England, that Mr. Leaf is one of the foremost British bankers and, with a very few associates, has been responsible for financing the empire through the Great War.

"For the subject of his Harris lectures, Dr. Leaf took a problem in historical geography. Using as his field the Troad, always a key to world-dominion, he traced the story of this debated ground from pre-Homeric days down through the recent war. The terrain he knows inch by inch from careful study on the spot. Of the literature he has complete command. With such equipment and a fine technique, Dr. Leaf did not fail to make many striking contributions to our knowledge of his subject. More than this, his talks had wide popular appeal, as witnessed by the unusual attendance throughout the series. None of his lectures met with less than enthusiasm, but perhaps 'Troy' and 'Mount Ida' made the strongest general impression. The fact that their zeal was so well rewarded should take nothing from the credit of the many Chicagoans, especially teachers, who came long distances, sometimes in the worst of weather, determined to miss nothing of this series.

"In less formal appearances Mr. Leaf was no less interesting. At a luncheon in his honor given by Mr. John C. Shaffer, of the *Chicago Evening Post*, Mr. Leaf met the governor of Illinois, Major General Leonard Wood, and a group of Chicago's leading financiers and professional men. Speaking this time as an English man of business, Mr. Leaf made a plea for cordial under-

standing between England and America, to which Governor Lowden responded in the same spirit.

"At its fall meeting, a luncheon at the La Salle Hotel, the Chicago Classical Club had Mr. Leaf as its guest. The attendance set a new record, as did the program. Mr. Leaf's remarks dealt with his idea of a proper union between business and a liberal education. In his banking practice Mr. Leaf has found young men with no more than a commercial training able to take clerkships and hold them—to the bitter end! For larger positions, positions requiring some breadth and imagination, experience has taught him that he must rely on men trained in the old classical courses. Especially did he find this true of his banking interests in Spain and elsewhere on the Continent. Only men educated in the cultural sense seem to develop the sympathy and understanding requisite for dealing with other nationals.

"No less important in Mr. Leaf's eyes is the function of the classics in providing complete relief from the day's grind. Only in the past can the present be for a time forgotten. Since the war began Mr. Leaf has found himself able to lock out his war burdens completely, from the moment that he entered his study. His scholarly output for the war period, of which the Harris lectures make a small part, has been greater than that for any similar term in his entire career. A work on Strabo, of seven hundred pages, is ready for publication. A volume of verse, translations from the *Palatine Anthology*, accounts for the hours spent on the train going to and from business. For the entire war period Mr. Leaf was president of the Hellenic Society. Greek though he is in most of his sympathies, Mr. Leaf admits the warmest enthusiasm for Marcus Cicero, who combined business and study as few have done since.

"Perhaps it may be of interest to add that in his short stay in Evanston Mr. Leaf found time to lecture on 'Persian Poetry' (he reads Persian in odd moments), to be banqueted by the Bankers' Association of Chicago, and to repeat his lecture on 'Mount Ida' at the University of Chicago. But it seems more worth while to mention Mr. Leaf's charming modesty, his easy and affable address, and his perfect readiness to talk to anyone on what seemed to interest the person concerned. We failed to find anything on which our visitor could not talk well but, like the best talkers, he preferred to meet his company more than halfway. How free he is from scholastic acrimony, a vice all too common, we are afraid, is clear when we say that Professor John Scott began his Homeric studies by attacking the positions held by Dr. Leaf. Yet his warm friendship for Professor Scott secured us his presence in Evanston. Since the classics are judged finally by their products, we are glad to have met Dr. Leaf and to have had him met by so many people outside the narrower sphere of academic influence. His lectures here have done much good, his ideals perhaps more, and his personality most of all. His visit has been a spur to our work and we hope that it may sometime be repeated."